GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1106
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012
RATIONING OF WATER
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the existing situation of water availability in the country, a proposal to implement `rationing` of water in the country has been moved by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether water availability for domestic use is very less even though availability of natural water is enough in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) In the Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has emphasised that the efficient use of water resources is the solution for better management of water resources and to meet the additional water demand from agriculture and other sectors. It also details about the water pricing for various uses and regulatory measures to ration water to different users for optimum water use.

(c) & (d) As per assessment by the Central Water Commission, the estimated utilizable water in the country is about 1123 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM). The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has assessed that total water requirement for various uses in the country by the years 2025 and 2050 will be about 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively, whereas the water requirement for domestic uses will be about 62 BCM and 111 BCM respectively.

With a view to augmenting the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Central Government also provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes and programmes.